

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-27 are pending. Claims 1-5, 14-19 and 24-27 are currently withdrawn from further consideration. By this Amendment, claims 6 and 14 are amended. Claim 7 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder and consideration of dependent claim 24 because claim 24 depends from examined claim 6. Claim 24 is believed to be allowable at least for its dependence on claim 6, which is allowable as discussed below, as well as for the additional feature it recites.

The Office Action rejects claims 6-13 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for determining predetermined members. In response, claim 6 is amended to recite a member registration step to obviate the rejection. The member registration step is supported in the specification at, for example, pages 19-21. Accordingly, the person who desires to register himself as a member is registered as a member as a result of the management server storing the biometric information corresponding to a handwritten signature pertaining the members stored by using a handwritten data input pad and a pen. Claim 7 is canceled by this Amendment, and claims 8-13 and 20-23 depend from claim 6. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 6-13 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because it is not clear which member in the claim(s) perform which step of the method, and that claim 7 lacks antecedent basis. Claim 6 is amended to obviate the rejection. Claim 7 is canceled by this Amendment, and the subject matter of claim 7, as incorporated into claim 6, is corrected. Claims 8-13 and 20-23 depend from claim 6. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 6, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ebay in view of an article Information Bid & Asked by Esther Dyson (Dyson). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 7, which is not rejected under this rejection. As such, claim 6 is patentably distinct from the applied references. Claims 8, 9, 11, 12 and 20-23 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 6, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ebay in view of Dyson and U.S. Patent No. 5,657,389 to Houbener. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claim 7 is canceled, and the subject matter of canceled claim 7 is incorporated into claim 6. Claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, the management server identifies the requester who has invited applications and the providers who have filed applications as authorized members when providers access the management server and allows providers to access the management server only when providers are identified as authorized members by use of the biometric information that corresponds to a handwritten signature pertaining to the members stored by using a handwritten data input pad and a pen. For example, as described in the specification at, for example, page 20, lines 15-23 and shown in Fig. 1, the handwritten data input pad 16 and the pen 18 are used for identification of requester/providers. As described in the specification at, for example, page 18, lines 8-15, each of the members enters his signature data by use of the handwritten data input pad 16 and the pen 18, and the data is sent to the management server for signature matching.

The Office Action admits that EBay and Dyson do not teach that biometric information corresponds to handwritten signature data pertaining to the members but alleges that Houvener teaches this feature.

However, col. 7, lines 11-30 of Houvener states that the digitized signature is transmitted over a communication medium to the point of verification terminal from a remote database site, but is merely displayed on a display 6. Houvener does not teach or suggest the use of a handwritten data input pad or a pen for identification of the user, or that the management server identifies the user by a handwritten signature that is entered by the handwritten data input pad and the pen. Houbener specifically teaches at col. 6, lines 59-63 that the store clerk, or other person responsible for identify verification would visually compare the image displayed on the display means with signature of the person presenting the credit card at the point of verification. Therefore, even combined, Ebay, Dyson and Houvener do not teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 6.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 is patentably distinct form the applied references. As such, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

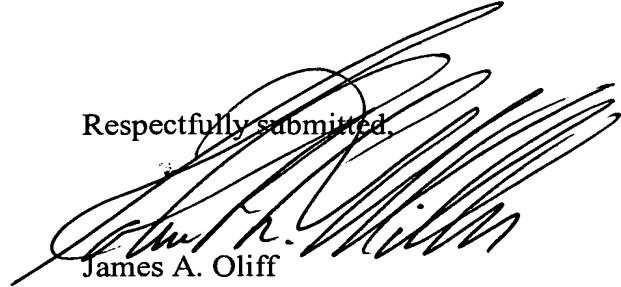
The Office Action rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ebay in view of Dyson and Information on Anand Milk Union Ltd. (AMUL). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ebay and Dyson do not anticipate the features recited in claim 6 as discussed above. AMUL does not overcome the deficiency of Ebay and Dyson with respect to claim 6. As such, claim 10 is allowable at least for its dependence on claim 6, as well as for the additional feature it recites. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 6, 8-13 and 20-23, and rejoinder and allowance of claim 24, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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